

NOT VOTING—1

Johnson

The nomination was confirmed.

**NOMINATION OF JOSEPH S. VAN BOKKELEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the northern district of Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I appreciate this opportunity to support the President's nomination of Joseph S. Van Bokkelen to serve as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

I would first like to thank Senate Judiciary chairman, PAT LEAHY; ranking member, ARLEN SPECTER; and the respective leaders for their important work to facilitate timely consideration of this nomination.

In July of last year, Judge Rudy Lozano informed me of his decision to assume senior status after a distinguished career of public service. He was a remarkable leader on the Federal bench, and I applaud his leadership to Indiana and to the legal community.

Given this upcoming vacancy and the need for strong leadership, I was pleased to commend to President Bush Joe Van Bokkelen to serve on the Federal court in the Northern District of Indiana.

I have known Joe for many years, and I have always been impressed with his high energy, resolute integrity, and remarkable dedication to public service.

Joe Van Bokkelen attended Indiana University where he received both his undergraduate and law degrees. He then served in the Indiana Attorney General's Office followed by his first experience in the United States Attorney's Office in the Northern District.

After many years of private practice, Joe assumed his current position of United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana on September 21, 2001. His performance in this position has been nothing short of remarkable. He has undertaken the most aggressive public corruption initiative in the history of the office. Since 2002, over 30 public officials have been indicted and convicted. Joe has also used his office to target the use and possession of illegal firearms, combat gang activity, implement drug demand reduction programs, and cultivate community partnerships.

Likewise, Joe has demonstrated leadership in the Justice Department where he serves on several of the Attorney General's advisory committees, including Violent and Organized Crime, White Collar Crime, Sentencing Guidelines, and the Regional Information Sharing Working Group.

Newspapers across northern Indiana contain articles and editorials applauding his determination to bring about effective law enforcement. The Northwest Indiana Times recently commented that Joe Van Bokkelen "has an excellent track record for the five years he has led the U.S. Attorney's office in Northern Indiana."

Joe has received a number of high performance ratings, including the A.V. rating from Martindale-Hubbell and the highest judicial rating from the American Bar Association.

Outside of his public service, Joe is involved with a number of community activities and civic organizations.

I would again like to thank Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member SPECTER for their leadership in facilitating consideration of Joe Van Bokkelen's nomination to serve as a Federal judge. I believe that he will demonstrate remarkable leadership to northern Indiana and will appropriately uphold and defend our laws under the Constitution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, motions to reconsider these votes are laid on the table. The President shall be notified of the Senate's actions.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate returns to legislative session.

The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask I be allowed to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**IMMIGRATION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today is a day of victory and defeat. So many people have poured so much of themselves into this bill over the last weeks and months, and every one of them deserves our thanks and our respect.

This bill tested the will, and the goodwill, of many people. But it tested some more than others. So first I want to thank those whose position did not prevail.

Senator SPECTER's knowledge of this issue is matched only by his stamina. As the ranking member, he has our admiration and he deserves our thanks.

Senator KYL inspired all of us, flying into his State and facing a lot of angry constituents, and the cameras week after week with optimism, patience and good cheer.

Senator GRAHAM was one of the generals in this effort. He always does what he thinks is right, and Americans admire him for it.

Senator MARTINEZ was another general. He brought intelligence and tenacity to this debate, and a story that never fails to inspire us.

Senator LOTT's a great whip, and a good friend. He has been in this building more than 3 decades, but he has the energy of a freshman. He has been a leader and friend: I thank him for it.

Senator SALAZAR gave a lot of himself to this debate, a lot of time and no little criticism. Thank you.

And finally, it is a marvel of nature to see a man whose calling in life is obvious to anyone who sees him at his job. Senator KENNEDY is such a man. He loves his work, and his passion has inspired us.

Of course, behind all these Senators are a lot of terrific staff members who have worked incredibly hard on this bill. On the Judiciary Committee, there was Michelle Grossman, Lauren Petron, Gavin Young, Lauren Pastarnack, Lynn Feldman, Juria Jones, and most of all Mike O'Neill.

On Senator MCCAIN's staff, Becky Jensen. On Senator GRAHAM's staff there was Matt Rimkunas and Jen Olson. On Senator KYL's staff, Elizabeth Maier and Michael Dougherty. On Senator MARTINEZ's staff, Brian Walsh, Clay Deatherage, and Nilda Pedrosa.

Now I want to thank everyone who opposed the bill.

Senators SESSIONS, DEMINT, and VITTER got us all to sit up and listen closely to a lot of people who thought they had been shut out of this debate. They put the rules of this body to work. And I would take any one of them in a fire-fight.

Senator CORNYN, one of the original architects, deserves our thanks. He has been committed to finding a solution to our Nation's immigration problem for a long time. His contributions on the interior enforcement piece of this bill were a major part of the original compromise. But when he saw it was not a solution he could accept, he told us.

Senator CHAMBLISS told us what the farmers needed, and we listened. We thank him for his important contributions to the bill.

Senator ISAKSON was the author of the trigger concept, which every one now agrees is a good idea.

To everyone involved in the crafting of this bill, I want to thank you. This was a labor of uncommon intensity. It required will, energy, and patience. And while it strained a lot of bonds, it broke none of them. As the majority leader said after the final vote, "We're all still friends here."

As the elected leader of my conference, I stood here in January and opened this session with a pledge. I knew contentious issues always have a better chance of being solved by divided governments, that immigration reform was within our reach, and I said we should put it in our sights.

I also knew it was going to have to be bipartisan if we were going to get a bill at all. So everyone I have mentioned